

PLEASE JOIN THE ALTERNATIVE SCHOOLS NETWORK TO SUPPORT A SAFER CHICAGO



**STUDENTS CALL FOR AN END TO VIOLENCE - ENOUGH IS ENOUGH**

Major call for help and safety for our youth. In the past week, 3 students in 3 community based high schools have been shot and killed. They had been out of school and were doing exactly what they should by re-enrolling back in school and working towards earning their high school diploma.

We support the Governor's and the state legislative leaders' push for more funding to provide education and employment for out of school and jobless youth so they will have the opportunity to become successful adults.

## **DEMONSTRATION & RALLY**

# **FRIDAY MAY 3<sup>RD</sup>, 2019**

## **12PM • THOMPSON CENTER MALL • 100 W RANDOLPH**



AlternativeSchoolsNetwork  
[www.asnchicago.org](http://www.asnchicago.org)

# New Report Shows Significant Increase In Youth Who Are Out Of School & Jobless

Total  
Pickup















**136**

Exact Match: 136  
postings

Total Potential  
Audience

**53,116,324**

Exact Match: 53,116,324 Visitors

Outlet Name		Location	Source Type	Industry	Potential Audience
	<a href="#">Seeking Alpha</a>	United States	Financial News Service	Financial	23,955,702
	<a href="#">PR Newswire</a>	United States	PR Newswire	Media & Information	9,372,666
	<a href="#">WFMZ-TV IND-69 [Allentown, PA]</a>	United States	Broadcast Media	Media & Information	2,098,364
	<a href="#">KOTV-TV CBS-6 [Tulsa, OK]</a>	United States	Broadcast Media	Media & Information	2,056,942
	<a href="#">Daily Herald [Chicago, IL]</a>	United States	Newspaper	Media & Information	1,555,913
	<a href="#">Buffalo News [Buffalo, NY]</a>	United States	Newspaper	Media & Information	1,537,817
	<a href="#">Benzinga</a>	United States	Online News Sites & Other Influencers	Financial	1,537,078
	<a href="#">WBBH-TV NBC-2 [Fort Myers, FL]</a>	United States	Broadcast Media	Media & Information	870,274
	<a href="#">KWTU-TV CBS-9 [Oklahoma City, OK]</a>	United States	Broadcast Media	Media & Information	854,368
	<a href="#">KAKE-TV ABC [Wichita, KS]</a>	United States	Broadcast Media	Media & Information	848,576
	<a href="#">Black Enterprise</a>	United States	Magazine	Multicultural & Demographic	683,398
	<a href="#">Minyanville</a>	United States	Online News Sites & Other Influencers	Financial	455,400
	<a href="#">WBOC-TV CBS-16 [Salisbury, MD]</a>	United States	Broadcast Media	Media & Information	433,550
	<a href="#">One News Page Global Edition</a>	Global	Online News Sites & Other Influencers	Media & Information	433,131

	<a href="#">WRCB-TV NBC-3 [Chattanooga, TN]</a>	United States	Broadcast Media	Media & Information	430,946
	<a href="#">WVIR-TV NBC-29 [Charlottesville, VA]</a>	United States	Broadcast Media	Media & Information	316,720
	<a href="#">KITV-TV ABC [Honolulu, HI]</a>	United States	Broadcast Media	Media & Information	315,842
	<a href="#">NewsBlaze</a>	United States	Online News Sites & Other Influencers	Media & Information	189,533
	<a href="#">WZVN-TV ABC-7 [Fort Myers, FL]</a>	United States	Broadcast Media	Media & Information	183,723
	<a href="#">myMotherLode.com [Sonora, CA]</a>	United States	Newspaper	Media & Information	181,414
	<a href="#">KTVN-TV CBS-2 [Reno, NV]</a>	United States	Broadcast Media	Media & Information	157,502
	<a href="#">WFMJ-TV NBC-21 [Youngstown, OH]</a>	United States	Broadcast Media	Media & Information	157,337
	<a href="#">1st Discount Brokerage</a>	United States	Financial News Service	Financial	156,085
	<a href="#">Ascensus</a>	United States	Online News Sites & Other Influencers	Financial	156,085
	<a href="#">Boston Herald [Boston, MA]</a>	United States	Newspaper	Media & Information	156,085

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04/08/2019, 06:29pm

## Female homicide victims, an alarming trend



*Brittani Rice, left, and Senobia Brantley, who were shot to death Monday night after leaving work. | Facebook.*

*By Mary Mitchell*

While top law enforcement officers are at each other's throats over the Cook County State's attorney's office [handling of the Jussie Smollett fiasco](#), a lot of people are getting away with murder.

That's a chilling thought.

Even worse, I'm beginning to suspect that some of the shootings involving young black women are not as random as they appear.

Last week, [two women were shot to death after leaving work at a Walmart](#) in Greater Grand Crossing.

The teenage girls were sitting in a car with a male teenager when three men jumped out of a blue sedan and opened fire.

Just like that Brittani Rice, 18, and Senobia Brantley, 19, were gone. The male was wounded. Although police don't think the shooting was gang-related, they believe the teens were targeted.

But what could have triggered such a deadly response?

Outside of domestic violence incidents, it used to be rare that women were the targets of street violence.

For instance, in 2013, 27 women in Cook County were homicide victims, 19 of them in Chicago. Four years later, the number of female homicide victims skyrocketed to 63 in Cook County, 52 of the homicides were in Chicago, according to the Cook County Medical Examiner's Office.

A couple of days after Rice and Brantley were murdered, another woman named Brittany — [Brittany Coleman, 29, — was killed in Rosemoor on the Far South Side](#).

Coleman was in the vehicle with her boyfriend, in the passenger seat, when someone fired shots. The boyfriend is not cooperating with investigators, police said.

He did, however, drop the critically wounded Coleman off at Roseland Community Hospital where she died.

What happened to Coleman is similar to what happened to Tykina Ali in 2016. [Ali, 20, was shot to death while riding in a vehicle](#) with her ex-boyfriend.

He told police someone pulled up on the right side of them and started shooting. Allegedly, the ex-boyfriend rode around for a couple of hours with the dying woman before taking her to West Suburban Hospital where she was pronounced DOA.

Ali's mother, [Adowa Watts](#), has waged an unsuccessful campaign to have the charges against the ex-boyfriend upgraded to second-degree murder.

Obviously, far more men are shot to death in our city.

Still, it was distressing to read that in [February](#), [Elisa Corona Vargas was found dead of multiple gunshot wounds on a sidewalk](#) in Austin, and no one is in custody.

Last month, the Chicago Police Department announced a 44 percent decline in homicides and a 24 percent reduction in shootings compared to the same time last year.

That's encouraging.

But those statistics don't tell the whole story.

There are days when it feels as if there is a deliberate assault on women.

The gunfire that tore through [a gathering for a baby shower in Englewood on Saturday](#) is an example of what I'm talking about.

The shooter had to have known the crowd would be mostly women and children.

An 8-year-old boy and a 10-year-old girl, and a 29-year-old woman were among the six people wounded.

The brazenness of this shooting shows the people who are committing these crimes don't fear getting caught.

That is one reason why some of us are having a difficult time swallowing State's Attorney Kim Foxx's approach to criminal justice reform.

People who break the law ought to be held accountable — from the disgraced former police Officer Jason Van Dyke, to TV star Smollett. Frankly, it is unfortunate that someone who allegedly faked a hate crime for his own benefit is now at the heart of a controversy that pits white and black law enforcement chiefs against each other.

It is also troublesome that the Fraternal Order of Police has exacerbated the situation by taking a "no-confidence" vote in Foxx's leadership.

The people who need police protection the most aren't going to believe a word the FOP — an organization that has historically turned a blind eye to police misconduct — has to say about Foxx's leadership.

But this schism is just going to add to the tensions that already exist between police and communities of color that make it more difficult to hold the criminals accountable.

Sad.

So far this year, there have been 17 homicides of females in Cook County.

Is anyone even paying attention?

Mary Mitchell

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## Study: 45% Of Young Black Men In Chicago Out Of School, Out Of Work

Sarah Karp  
May 3, 2019



Bill Healy/WBEZ

*To help teens stay safe and engaged over the summer, Chicago Public Schools hired high school students to renovate aging CPS auditoriums. The teens pictured here renovated the auditorium at Harold Washington Elementary School in summer 2017.*

An increasing number of black young men in Chicago are out of work and out of school, according to a report being released on Friday.

The analysis of 2017 census data shows a whopping 45% of black men between the ages of 20 and 24 didn't have a job and weren't in school — about 9 percentage points higher than in 2016. For younger black males ages 16 to 19, the out-of-work, out-of-school rate remained unchanged at 9%.

As it has for more than a decade, the Alternative Schools Network, an advocacy group for schools that re-enroll dropouts, commissioned the analysis, which was done by the University of Illinois at Chicago's Great Cities Institute. In past years, the organization has held panel discussions to try to bring awareness to the issue. But this year, it plans to hold a noon rally on Friday at the Thompson Center featuring students from alternative schools. The students will talk about how many classmates they know who have been killed just in the past few months.

And they will link this violence with the lack of jobs for young people, especially over the summer.

"It is about getting many more kids off the street," said Jack Wuest, the executive director of the network. "It is just that simple."

Thirty years ago, the federal government funded a robust youth jobs program that put hundreds of thousands of teenagers to work across the country, Wuest points out. But he said the Clinton administration took money from that program.

In recent years, Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel has "pieced together" money for summer jobs programs, Wuest said. The main one, One Summer Chicago, got more than double the applicants for the available jobs, according to its website. Not having a job as a teenager makes it harder to land one as a young adult, he said.

"So that means that 20 to 24-year-olds haven't had a job when they are 16, 17, 18, 19, 20," Wuest said. "So they don't have that experience. That is why I think we see these numbers that are dangerously high."

Matt Wilson, who did the analysis for the Great Cities Institute, said the difference in the out-of-school, out-of-work rate between black and white young adults in Chicago is especially stark. Only about 5% of white 16 to 24-year-olds are out of work and out of school, compared to 13% of Latinos and a quarter of black young adults.

He said this data helps him better understand why there's more violence in some communities.

"You ask the question: What do they do in the morning? What do they do when they wake up?" he said. "I think when people don't have a way to productively use time, the violence becomes a natural response to that."

Wuest points out many communities across Illinois are grappling with too many idle young adults. Outside of Chicago, more than 127,000 16 to 24-year-olds are out of work and out of school, nearly half of them white.

"It is not just inner city. It is not just Cook County," he said. "It is the rural areas that are white ... those kids are in dire straits too."

*Sarah Karp covers education for WBEZ. Follow her on Twitter at [@WBEZeducation](https://twitter.com/WBEZeducation) and [@sskedreporter](https://twitter.com/sskedreporter).*

# POLITICO ILLINOIS PLAYBOOK

BY [SHIA KAPOS](#) AND [ADRIENNE HURST](#)

Presented by Bet on Main Street Coalition

## ○ THE BUZZ

**Mayor-elect Lori Lightfoot is "resolute"** that aldermanic prerogative is going away but she's not trying "to completely neuter" aldermen of their power either.

**"Nothing could be further from the truth,"** she told Playbook during an interview in her office. "This is about opening up city government and eliminating an unnecessary and corrosive step in governance."

**For the uninitiated:** Aldermanic prerogative is the unwritten practice that allows an alderman to veto zoning and other permits in their wards that affect everything from paving a new driveway to zoning for a large development project. Critics have long said the practice has allowed aldermen to unofficially enforce segregation — not to mention that it's ripe for corruption (see: [federal complaint](#) against longtime Ald. Ed Burke). But aldermen have defended the practice, saying they know what's best for their communities.

**Lightfoot counters that city functions like permitting should be done through technology**, and says it's about rethinking how the city delivers for its residents. Why should individuals go to an alderman with a request for a summer block party when it could be done online, and in a citywide egalitarian way, Lightfoot said. Resident's shouldn't have to "kiss the ring" or "feel like you've got to have access, like you've got to 'have a guy,'" she said.

**"Aldermen can still say 'Hey, there's an issue in my ward and I'd like it taken care of,'"** Lightfoot said, but hopes that aldermen do so in a transparent way, through legislation.

**One thing Lightfoot doesn't want to end** is letting aldermen access the \$1 million in "menu money" to spend on capital improvement projects, like repaving roads or replacing traffic signals. During her one-on-one conversations with aldermen, Lightfoot says, "they still have things that come up in their wards that they have to take care of."

## ○ CHICAGO

— **Chicago Ethics Board fines Ald. Ed Burke \$2K for 'improper influence,'** reports WBEZ's Dan Mihalopoulos: The 14th Ward alderman was fined for breaking a rule against exerting "improper influence" in January 2018, when he helped win a \$5.5 million subsidy for Presence Health's new headquarters. [Story here](#)

— **Study: 45% of young black men in Chicago are out of school, out of work,** reports WBEZ's Sarah Karp: The analysis helps better understand the link between violence and a lack of employment. [Story here](#)



## New Report Shows Significant Increase In Youth Who Are Out Of School & Jobless

### Rising Economic Numbers Hiding Worsening Job Prospects for Teens and Young Adults

CHICAGO, May 3, 2019 /PRNewswire/ -- Rising numbers of Chicago's young adults, age 20-24, are out of school and out of work, reflecting a national trend that is more acute in Chicago and some downstate rural areas than in most of the nation, according to a new report using 2017 data, the latest available. Part of a series commissioned by the Alternative Schools Network, the report was released today at an anti-violence rally in downtown Chicago.

In perhaps the most disturbing finding, almost half, 45.2 percent, of Chicago's 20-24 year old black males were out of school and out of work, despite a supposedly booming economy. It is a big jump from the 36.6 percent in 2016 that was heralded as an encouraging trend when reported last year.

"We know how to reduce the violence," said Jack Wuest, executive director of ASN. "We know what works. All it takes is the political will to fund the programs that will get these young people back in school, give them experience on the job and put them to work."

The connection between violence and young people who have nothing to do is obvious and well documented, Wuest noted. "Right now, jobless and out-of-school youth urgently need summer youth employment and education programs. Gov. Rauner killed that program, and the results have been tragic."

The youth at the rally will voice their support for the efforts of Gov. J.B. Pritzker, House Speaker Mike Madigan and Senate President John Cullerton and many members of the General Assembly, to provide more funding to solve this problem through more educational and employment opportunities. The rally aims to expedite this process for equity for the youth in Chicago and across Illinois that need these opportunities to become successful adults.

"Now Gov. Pritzker is backing such a program and state House Speaker Madigan and state Senate President Cullerton are supporting it," Wuest said. "But we have to get it done, now. Summer is coming."

Nationally the out of school and jobless number for blacks 20-24 was still disturbingly high at 23.7 percent. But that figure fit into a historic trend that shows black unemployment double that of whites, whose jobless and out of school rate was at 12.5 percent.

In Chicago, with 7.4 percent of white 20-24 year olds out of school and out of work, the ratio stands at an appalling six to one.

Chicago isn't the only place where black young adults are at a steep disadvantage. The report looked at rural Illinois, creating four groups of counties. In the group that comprised Monroe, Randolph, Washington, Jefferson, Marion, Montgomery, Bond, Clinton, Fayette, Effingham, Clark, Jasper, Crawford, Lawrence, Richland, Clay, and Wayne counties, 63.7 percent of Black men and women were out of school and jobless. That compared to 16.7 percent of whites.

The report by the Alternative Schools Network, ***Out Of School and Jobless: A Continuing Crisis for Youths in Chicago and Beyond***, uses data assembled by the University of Illinois at Chicago Great Cities Institute. It covered percent and number of out of school, out of work youths in the United States as a whole, Illinois, four groupings of downstate counties, Cook County and Chicago, broken down by gender, race and ethnicity and three age ranges, 16-19, 20-24 and 16-24. The data source was GCI tabulation of 2017 American Community Survey public use data. For the rural counties it was GCI tabulation of 2013-2017 American Community Survey public use data.

It was released at a student-led anti-violence rally at the James R. Thompson Center in downtown Chicago, where students from community-based high schools in the Alternative Schools Network organized around the message **No More! No Mas! Our Youths Should Grow Old, Not Die Young**. ASN students were aiming to show the schoolmates, friends and family of those teens who have been killed in the city's ongoing eruption of violence that they are not alone.

In just the last four weeks three teens who were students at ASN schools have been murdered, just an indicator of what is going on in the city, where in the period between April 9 and April 22 there were 50 shootings recorded by police.

The report is the latest in an ASN-commissioned series on the youth employment crisis. Some key findings include:

### ***Most Illinois groups beat national averages, but blacks 20-24 were the exception***

- Across the board, 16-19 year olds in Illinois were better off than the average for their counterparts nationwide. Some 6.2 percent were out of school and out of work statewide, compared to 6.8 percent in the United States overall. Black males 16-19 were the worst off, at 11.5 percent, but still better than the nationwide average of 12.2 percent. And all but 3.3 percent of white females were either in school or working. For Latinx that age, 7.4 percent were out of school and out of work, compared to 8.3 percent nationwide.
- For 20-24 year olds, 11 percent of Illinois whites were out of school and out of work, but for blacks it was triple that number at 33.8 percent, compared to 23.7 percent in that group nationwide. Just over 14 percent of Latinx young adults were out of school and jobless, significantly better than the national average of 17.1 percent.
- The huge bulge in black 20-24 year olds brought Illinois' total for out of school and out of work to 15.3 percent, slightly above the national average of 15.1 percent. But for 16-24 overall, 11.3 percent of Illinois youths were jobless and out of school, compared to 11.5 percent nationally.

### ***Cook County mostly follows national pattern***

- Cook County's 16-19 year olds were near the national average for out of school and out of work at 6.6 percent, compared to 6.8 percent nationwide. Countywide, black males were better than the national average, at 10.8 percent versus 12.2 percent nationwide.
- One of the largest disparities for age 16-19 youths was between white females, 2 percent out of school and out of work and black females that age, 9.8 percent. Latinas were at 6.4 percent.
- Overall in the county, those 20-24 were slightly worse off than the national average with 15.3 percent out of school and out of work, compared to 15.1 percent nationwide. But, again, black males were the worst off, at 27.6 percent out of school and out of work, better than statewide averages but worse than national. Black young women were second worse in that age group at 19.7 percent and Latinas next at 18.8 percent.
- White young men, 20-24, in the county were the best off, but still at 12.3 percent out of school and out of work, compared to 12.2 percent statewide.

### ***Significant disparities by race and sex in Chicago***

- Chicago's 16-19 year olds are slightly better off than the national average, with 6.6 percent out of school and out of work, compared to 6.8 percent nationwide. But white females that age were at 3.3 percent out of school and out of work, while black males are at 8.7 percent, black females 7.5 percent, Latinas 6.6 percent and Latino youths at 5.6 percent. White males are 5.8 percent.
- The disparities for 20-24 year olds are even more dramatic with 5.7 percent of whites in Chicago out of school and out of work, while the numbers are 37.4 percent for blacks and 18.2 percent for Latinx.
- As noted above, almost half, 45.2 percent, of black males 20-24 are out of school and out of work, compared to 7.4 percent of white males and 18.3 percent of Latinos.

### ***Downstate rural counties have pockets of deep depression for young people***

- Rural, downstate counties were divided into four groups and the report used data for 2013-2017 averages of out of school and out of work numbers and percentages for each group.
- For 16-19 year olds, the average out of school and out of work figures ranged from 7.2 percent to 8.9 percent.
- For 20-24 year olds, the average out of school and out of work figures ranged from 16.6 percent to 26 percent.
- The highest out of school and out of work result was 63.7 percent for black young men 20-24 years old in Monroe, Randolph, Washington, Jefferson, Marion, Montgomery, Bond, Clinton, Fayette, Effingham, Clark, Jasper, Crawford, Lawrence, Richland, Clay, and Wayne Counties.
- For 20-24 year old whites, the highest out of school and out of work rate was 22.5 percent in Alexander, Edwards, Gallatin, Hamilton, Hardin, Johnson, Massac, Pope, Pulaski, Saline, Union, Wabash, White, Jackson, Williamson, Franklin, and Perry Counties.
- Latinx 20-24 year olds were worse off in Monroe, Randolph, Washington, Jefferson, Marion, Montgomery, Bond, Clinton, Fayette, Effingham, Clark, Jasper, Crawford, Lawrence, Richland, Clay, and Wayne Counties, at 36.4 percent out of school and jobless.

"This report confirms what we already knew," Wuest said, "that a significant portion of youths have been abandoned by our system."

The solution, he said, is expensive, but not as expensive as condemning large numbers of young people to lives that lead them to drugs, crime, violence, mental illness and incarceration. It includes getting young people who have dropped out or been expelled back into school; making sure they have mentors; funding programs that train them for and place them in entry-level jobs, so they learn how to show up every day on time and follow instructions from their supervisors; providing needed social services; emphasizing conflict resolution and restorative justice; and incentivizing reinvestment in neighborhoods that have been gutted and left behind.

"Young people should grow old," he said, "not die young."

#### **ABOUT ALTERNATIVE SCHOOLS NETWORK**

The Alternative Schools Network (ASN) is a not-for-profit organization in Chicago working to provide quality education with a specific emphasis on inner-city children, youth and adults. Since 1973, ASN has been supporting community based and community-run programs to develop and expand training and other educational services in Chicago's inner-city neighborhoods. In addition to supporting direct services, ASN has been a consistent and effective advocate for community-based services whereby the people involved are active participants in developing and running programs – not passive recipients of services. To shape policies and programs, ASN has built an impressive track record of operating successful education, employment and support service programs. For more information please visit [www.asnchicago.org](http://www.asnchicago.org).



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SOURCE Alternative Schools Network



## New Report Shows Significant Increase In Youth Who Are Out Of School & Jobless

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In perhaps the most disturbing finding, almost half, 45.2 percent, of Chicago's 20-24 year old black males were out of school and out of work, despite a supposedly booming economy. It is a big jump from the 36.6 percent in 2016 that was heralded as an encouraging trend when reported last year.

"We know how to reduce the violence," said Jack Wuest, executive director of ASN. "We know what works. All it takes is the political will to fund the programs that will get these young people back in school, give them experience on the job and put them to work."

The connection between violence and young people who have nothing to do is obvious and well documented, Wuest noted. "Right now, jobless and out-of-school youth urgently need summer youth employment and education programs. Gov. Rauner killed that program, and the results have been tragic."

The youth at the rally will voice their support for the efforts of Gov. J.B. Pritzker, House Speaker Mike Madigan and Senate President John Cullerton and many members of the General Assembly, to provide more funding to solve this problem through more educational and employment opportunities. The rally aims to expedite this process for equity for the youth in Chicago and across Illinois that need these opportunities to become successful adults.

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In Chicago, with 7.4 percent of white 20-24 year olds out of school and out of work, the ratio stands at an appalling six to one.

Chicago isn't the only place where black young adults are at a steep disadvantage. The report looked at rural Illinois, creating four groups of counties. In the group that comprised Monroe, Randolph, Washington, Jefferson, Marion, Montgomery, Bond, Clinton, Fayette, Effingham

Clark, Jasper, Crawford, Lawrence, Richland, Clay, and Wayne counties, 63.7 percent of Black men and women were out of school and jobless. That compared to 16.7 percent of whites.

The report by the Alternative Schools Network, ***Out Of School and Jobless: A Continuing Crisis for Youths in Chicago and Beyond***, uses data assembled by the University of Illinois at Chicago Great Cities Institute. It covered percent and number of out of school, out of work youths in the United States as a whole, Illinois, four groupings of downstate counties, Cook County and Chicago, broken down by gender, race and ethnicity and three age ranges, 16-19, 20-24 and 16-24. The data source was GCI tabulation of 2017 American Community Survey public use data. For the rural counties it was GCI tabulation of 2013-2017 American Community Survey public use data.

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The report is the latest in an ASN-commissioned series on the youth employment crisis. Some key findings include:

***Most Illinois groups beat national averages, but blacks 20-24 were the exception***

- Across the board, 16-19 year olds in Illinois were better off than the average for their counterparts nationwide. Some 6.2 percent were out of school and out of work statewide, compared to 6.8 percent in the United States overall. Black males 16-19 were the worst off, at 11.5 percent, but still better than the nationwide average of 12.2 percent. And all but 3.3 percent of white females were either in school or working. For Latinx that age, 7.4 percent were out of school and out of work, compared to 8.3 percent nationwide.
- For 20-24 year olds, 11 percent of Illinois whites were out of school and out of work, but for blacks it was triple that number at 33.8 percent, compared to 23.7 percent in that group nationwide. Just over 14 percent of Latinx young adults were out of school and jobless, significantly better than the national average of 17.1 percent.
- The huge bulge in black 20-24 year olds brought Illinois' total for out of school and out of work to 15.3 percent, slightly above the national average of 15.1 percent. But for 16-24 overall, 11.3 percent of Illinois youths were jobless and out of school, compared to 11.5 percent nationally.

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**Alternative Schools Network**  
CREATING FUTURES EVERY DAY

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**THURSDAY, MAY 3, 2019**

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**NEWS RELEASE V#1**

**NEW REPORT SHOWS DANGEROUS INCREASE IN YOUTH WHO ARE OUT OF SCHOOL & JOBLESS**  
***Rising Economic Numbers Hiding Worsening Job Prospects for Teens and Young Adults***

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“Young people should grow old,” he said, “not die young.”

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# OUT OF SCHOOL AND JOBLESS: A CONTINUING CRISIS FOR YOUTH IN CHICAGO AND BEYOND

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## **A REPORT BY THE ALTERNATIVE SCHOOLS NETWORK**

**Y**oung people nationwide, ages 16-24, still lag far behind the overall economy in levels of employment. This continues to be a crisis of major proportions, hitting black and Latinx youths especially hard. And Chicago is among the hardest hit.

Historically, the black unemployment rate stays close to double that of whites. And nationally, that is true for youth. Using the 2017 data supplied by the University of Illinois, Great Cities Institute, we found that for 16-24 year olds, the percentage out of school, out of work whites was 9.4%, while that of blacks was 17.9%. But zero in on Chicago and 5.4% of white 16-24 year olds were out of school and out of work, while the rate for blacks was 25.6% -- nearly five times higher.

These figures, and others in this report, should inform policy makers as they search for answers to the high cost of incarceration, the high levels of violence and the lack of an adequately trained and experienced workforce.

## **Ongoing report series paints grim picture for teens & young adults of color**

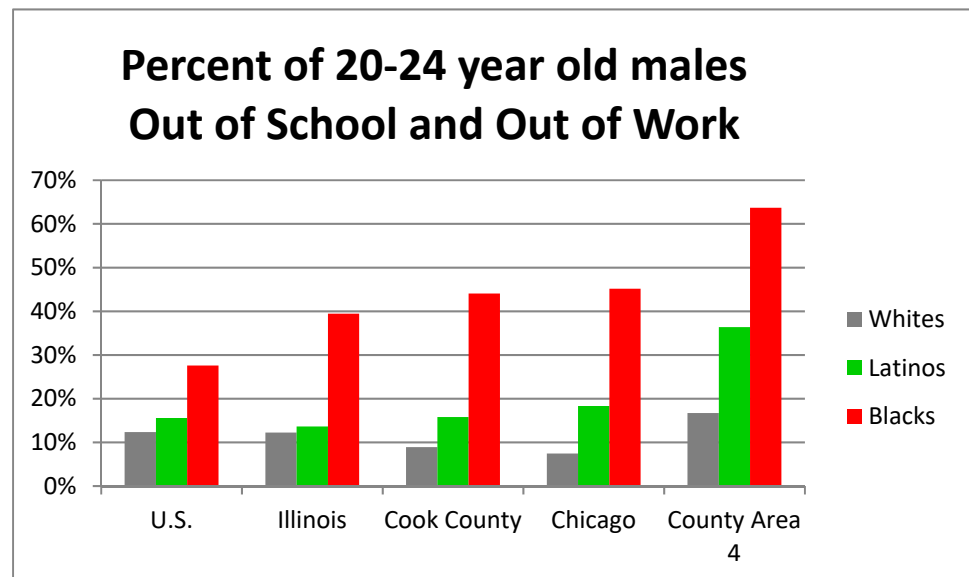
**T**he crisis of youth unemployment has been dramatically brought to the attention of Chicago's public, as well as to local, state and federal policy makers, through a series of reports commissioned by the Alternative Schools Network. These reports have shown that:

- For the summers of 2013-2014, the national average of the percent of all teens 16-19 who were employed for the summers of 2013-2014 was 31.7%, while Illinois' statewide rate was 35.7%. But for those teens with family income at \$20,000 or below the average dropped to 12.8% for Black teens and 18.1% of Hispanic teens. By comparison, 41.7% of white teens whose family income was more than \$100,000 were employed.
- Across all employment indicators, for 20-24 year olds, using 2014 data, whites in Cook County fared better than all other groups in Illinois, the U.S. and counties containing New York City, Los Angeles and Houston. Conversely, blacks in Cook County in comparison to all groups across all geographies have the highest rates of joblessness as

well as the highest rates of those out of school and out of work. Nearly 41% of Chicago's black youths in that age range were out of school and out of work.

- The employment crisis, especially for Black and Latino youths, is tied to long range trends in the overall loss of manufacturing jobs; and most notably, that joblessness among young people is tied to the emptying out of jobs from neighborhoods. Using 2015 data, of Chicago 20-24 year-olds, 43% of black men, 18% of Latino and 9% of white young men were jobless and out of school. And there was clear evidence showing a correlation between neighborhoods with high levels of violent crime and high levels of youth joblessness.
- Using 2016 data, some improvement was seen for Chicago's black men 20-24 years old. Still, nearly 37% were out of school and out of work. But the numbers for Chicago Latinos in that age group had gone up, to almost 20%. Whites in that group were at 5.3%.

Now a new data set, using 2017 numbers, is in. For black males 20-24 in Chicago, almost half, 45.2% are Out of School and Out of Work in a supposedly booming economy, a big jump from 36.6% in 2016. And Latinos in that age range are at 18.3%. Compare that to white males, 20-24, whose out of school, out of work numbers are 7.4%.



## Most recent data shows teens & young adults still being left behind

The data for this year's report was assembled by the University of Illinois at Chicago Great Cities Institute. The data covers percent and number of **Out of School, Out of Work (OSOW)** youths in the United States as a whole, Illinois, four groupings of downstate counties, Cook



County and Chicago, broken down by gender, race and ethnicity and three age ranges, 16-19, 20-24 and 16-24. Our data source was Great Cities Institute tabulation of 2017 American Community Survey public use data, and for the rural counties, Great Cities Institute tabulation of 2013-2017 American Community Survey public use data. The underlying tables can be found in the appendix.

### **OSOW for Young People Nationwide by Race/Ethnicity & Sex**

- While 6.8% of 16-19 year olds were OSOW across the nation, black males were the worst off at 12.2%, while white females were at the low end at 4.7%.
- For 20-24 year olds, 12.5% of whites were OSOW, while the number for blacks was nearly double at 23.7%. Just over 17% of Latinx youth were OSOW.
- Broken down by sex for 20-24 year-olds, white men, 12.3% OSOW were slightly better off than white women, 12.6%, and the same was true for Latinx, where 15.6% of men were OSOW, compared to 18.8% of the women. For Blacks, however the opposite was true, with 19.7% of women OSOW, compared to 27.6% of the men.

### **OSOW for Young People in Illinois by Race/Ethnicity & Sex**

- Across the board, 16-19 year olds in Illinois were better off than the average for their counterparts nationwide. Some 6.2% were OSOW statewide, compared to 6.8% in the U.S. overall. Black males were the worst off, at 11.5%, but still better than the nationwide average of 12.2%. And all but 3.3% of white females were either in school and/or working.
- For 20-24 year olds, 11 percent of whites were OSOW, but for blacks it was triple that number at 33.8%. Just over 14% of Latinx young adults were OSOW, significantly better than the national average.
- The huge bulge in black 20-24 year olds brought Illinois' total for OSOW to 15.3%, slightly above the national average of 15.1%.
- Broken down by sex, 16.7% of male Illinois 20-24 year olds were OSOW, compared to 13.9% of young women.
- White young women were better off than their 20-24 counterparts, 9.7% to 12.2%. The same was true for black young adults, where 28.1% of women and 39.4% of men were OSOW. But Latinas at 15% OSOW were worse off than their male counterparts, who were at 13.6%.

### **OSOW for Young People in Cook County by Race/Ethnicity & Sex**

- Cook County's 16-19 year olds were near the national average for OSOW at 6.6%, compared to 6.8% nationwide. Countywide, black males were better than the national average, at 10.8% versus 12.2% nationwide.
- One of the largest disparities for age 16-19 youths was between white females, 2% OSOW and black females that age, 9.8%. Latinas were at 6.4%.
- Overall in the county, those 20-24 were slightly worse off than the national average with 15.3% OSOW, compared to 15.1% nationwide. But, again, black males were the worst off, at 27.6% OSOW, followed by black young women at 19.7% and Latinas at 18.8%.
- White young men, 20-24, in the county were the best off, but still at 12.3% OSOW.

### **OSOW for Young People in Chicago by Race/Ethnicity & Sex**

- Chicago's 16-19 year olds are slightly better off than the national average, with 6.6% OSOW, compared to 6.8% nationwide. But the disparities are glaring, with white females that age at 3.3% OSOW while black males are at 8.7%, black females 7.5%, Latinas 6.6% and Latino youths at 5.6%. White males are 5.8%.
- The disparities for 20-24 year olds are even more dramatic. 5.7% of whites in Chicago are OSOW, while the numbers are 37.4% for blacks and 18.2% for Latinx. The national 20-24 OSOW averages are 12.5% for whites, 23.7% for blacks and 17.1 for Latinx.
- As noted above, almost half, 45.2%, of black males 20-24 are OSOW, compared to 7.4% of white males and 18.3% of Latinos.

### **OSOW for Young People in 4 Groups of Illinois Counties by Race/Ethnicity**

- We also created four groups of rural, downstate counties, getting average 2013-2017 OSOW numbers and percentages for each group.
- For 16-19 year olds, the average OSOW figures ranged from 7.2% to 8.9%.
- For 20-24 year olds, the average OSOW figures ranged from 16.6% to 26%.
- The highest OSOW result was 63.7% for black young men 20-24 years old in Monroe, Randolph, Washington, Jefferson, Marion, Montgomery, Bond, Clinton, Fayette, Effingham Clark, Jasper, Crawford, Lawrence, Richland, Clay, and Wayne Counties.
- For 20-24 year old whites the highest OSOW rate was 22.5% in Alexander, Edwards, Gallatin, Hamilton, Hardin, Johnson, Massac, Pope, Pulaski, Saline, Union, Wabash, White, Jackson, Williamson, Franklin, and Perry Counties.
- Latinx 20-24 year olds were worse off in Monroe, Randolph, Washington, Jefferson, Marion, Montgomery, Bond, Clinton, Fayette, Effingham Clark, Jasper, Crawford, Lawrence, Richland, Clay, and Wayne Counties, at 36.4%.



## Conclusions

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The economy may be looking good to some, but for many young people across the United States, and particularly in Chicago and much of Illinois, it really isn't good at all.

From previous studies we know that this is costly, not only to those young people, many of who, when they are out of school and jobless get sucked into the vortex of drugs, crime and violence, but also to taxpayers. A teenager or young adult who ends up in prison will eventually cost taxpayers nearly \$300,000 in lost tax revenues, lost productivity, providing welfare and the costs of incarceration.

Clearly the rising tide is not floating all boats. And yet we know what works to prevent this downward spiral: getting out of school and jobless youth back into best practices small schools; making sure they have mentors; funding programs that train them for and place them in entry-level jobs so they learn how to show up every day on time and follow instructions from their supervisors; providing needed social services; emphasizing conflict resolution and restorative justice; and incentivizing reinvestment in neighborhoods that have been gutted and left behind.

When we look at this data, we can no longer pretend that the growing economy will solve all the problems for these young people. It will take investing in them. They deserve to grow old, not die young.

# Appendix

## United States 2017

Percent and Number of Out of School and Out of Work 16 to 19 and 20 to 24 Year Olds by Race/Ethnicity				
Race/Ethnicity		16-19	20-24	16-24
White (non-Hispanic or Latino)	%	5.3%	12.5%	9.4%
	(n)	485,649	1,476,082	1,961,731
Black (non-Hispanic or Latino)	%	10.4%	23.7%	17.9%
	(n)	252,269	747,417	999,686
Hispanic or Latino	%	8.3%	17.1%	13.2%
	(n)	330,442	826,862	1,157,304
Total	%	6.8%	15.1%	11.5%
	(n)	1,170,657	3,331,158	4,501,815

Data Source: 2017 American Community Survey, public use files. Tabulations by Great Cities Institute

Percent and Number of Out of School and Out of Work 16 to 19 and 20 to 24 Year Olds by Race/Ethnicity and Sex in the U.S., 2017					
Sex	Race/Ethnicity		16-19	20-24	16-24
Male	White (non-Hispanic or Latino)	%	5.9%	12.3%	9.6%
		(n)	277,435	753,720	1,031,155
	Black (non-Hispanic or Latino)	%	12.2%	27.6%	20.8%
		(n)	153,047	438,595	591,642
	Hispanic or Latino	%	8.6%	15.6%	12.4%
		(n)	174,673	387,940	562,613
Female	Total	%	7.5%	15.2%	11.8%
		(n)	660,632	1,721,820	2,382,452
	White (non-Hispanic or Latino)	%	4.7%	12.6%	9.1%
		(n)	208,214	722,362	930,576
	Black (non-Hispanic or Latino)	%	8.4%	19.7%	14.8%
		(n)	99,222	308,822	408,044
	Hispanic or Latino	%	8.1%	18.8%	13.9%
		(n)	155,769	438,922	594,691
	Total	%	6.1%	15.0%	11.1%
		(n)	510,025	1,609,338	2,119,363

Data Source: 2017 American Community Survey, public use files. Tabulations by Great Cities Institute





## Illinois 2017

Percent and Number of Out of School and Out of Work 16 to 19 and 20 to 24 Year Olds by Race/Ethnicity				
Race/Ethnicity		16-19	20-24	16-24
White (non-Hispanic or Latino)	%	4.6%	11.0%	8.2%
	(n)	16,311	51,020	67,331
Black (non-Hispanic or Latino)	%	10.6%	33.8%	23.8%
	(n)	11,426	47,970	59,396
Hispanic or Latino	%	7.4%	14.3%	11.1%
	(n)	11,698	25,957	37,655
Total	%	6.2%	15.3%	11.3%
	(n)	42,220	132,369	174,589

Data Source: 2017 American Community Survey, public use files. Tabulations by Great Cities Institute

Percent and Number of Out of School and Out of Work 16 to 19 and 20 to 24 Year Olds by Race/Ethnicity and Sex in Illinois, 2017					
Sex	Race/Ethnicity		16-19	20-24	16-24
Male	White (non-Hispanic or Latino)	%	5.8%	12.2%	9.4%
		(n)	10,696	28,998	39,694
	Black (non-Hispanic or Latino)	%	11.5%	39.4%	27.0%
		(n)	6,507	27,869	34,376
	Hispanic or Latino	%	7.9%	13.6%	10.9%
		(n)	6,333	12,281	18,614
Female	White (non-Hispanic or Latino)	%	3.3%	9.7%	6.9%
		(n)	5,615	22,022	27,637
	Black (non-Hispanic or Latino)	%	9.7%	28.1%	20.5%
		(n)	4,919	20,101	25,020
	Hispanic or Latino	%	6.8%	15.0%	11.2%
		(n)	5,365	13,676	19,041
Total		%	5.2%	13.9%	10.1%
		(n)	16,997	59,495	76,492

Data Source: 2017 American Community Survey, public use files. Tabulations by Great Cities Institute

## Cook County 2017

Percent and Number of Out of School and Out of Work 16 to 19 and 20 to 24 Year Olds by Race/Ethnicity				
Race/Ethnicity		16-19	20-24	16-24
White (non-Hispanic or Latino)	%	4.1%	8.5%	6.7%
	(n)	3,196	9,697	12,893
Black (non-Hispanic or Latino)	%	10.3%	37.5%	25.8%
	(n)	6,925	33,272	40,197
Hispanic or Latino	%	6.4%	17.2%	12.4%
	(n)	5,490	18,582	24,072
Total	%	6.6%	18.9%	13.7%
	(n)	16,669	65,588	82,257

Data Source: 2017 American Community Survey, public use files. Tabulations by Great Cities Institute

Percent and Number of Out of School and Out of Work 16 to 19 and 20 to 24 Year Olds by Race/Ethnicity and Sex in Cook County, 2017					
Sex	Race/Ethnicity		16-19	20-24	16-24
Male	White (non-Hispanic or Latino)	%	6.1%	8.9%	7.8%
		(n)	2,448	5,189	7,637
	Black (non-Hispanic or Latino)	%	10.8%	44.1%	29.2%
		(n)	3,761	18,925	22,686
	Hispanic or Latino	%	6.3%	15.8%	11.7%
		(n)	2,611	8,510	11,121
Female	Total	%	7.4%	19.8%	14.5%
		(n)	9,500	34,266	43,766
	White (non-Hispanic or Latino)	%	2.0%	8.0%	5.6%
		(n)	748	4,508	5,256
	Black (non-Hispanic or Latino)	%	9.8%	31.3%	22.4%
		(n)	3,164	14,347	17,511
	Hispanic or Latino	%	6.4%	18.7%	13.1%
		(n)	2,879	10,072	12,951
	Total	%	5.7%	18.0%	12.9%
		(n)	7,169	31,322	38,491

Data Source: 2017 American Community Survey, public use files. Tabulations by Great Cities Institute

## Chicago 2017

Percent and Number of Out of School and Out of Work 16 to 19 and 20 to 24 Year Olds by Race/Ethnicity				
Race/Ethnicity		16-19	20-24	16-24
White (non-Hispanic or Latino)	%	4.6%	5.7%	5.4%
	(n)	1,066	3,419	4,485
Black (non-Hispanic or Latino)	%	8.1%	37.4%	25.6%
	(n)	3,225	22,120	25,345
Hispanic or Latino	%	6.1%	18.2%	12.9%
	(n)	3,001	11,468	14,469
Total	%	6.6%	19.4%	14.6%
	(n)	8,176	39,302	47,478

Data Source: 2017 American Community Survey, public use files. Tabulations by Great Cities Institute

Percent and Number of Out of School and Out of Work 16 to 19 and 20 to 24 Year Olds by Race/Ethnicity and Sex in Chicago, 2017					
Sex	Race/Ethnicity		16-19	20-24	16-24
Male	White (non-Hispanic or Latino)	%	5.8%	7.4%	7.0%
		(n)	686	2,184	2,870
	Black (non-Hispanic or Latino)	%	8.7%	45.2%	30.0%
		(n)	1,760	12,805	14,565
	Hispanic or Latino	%	5.6%	18.3%	12.8%
		(n)	1,324	5,680	7,004
Female	White (non-Hispanic or Latino)	%	3.3%	4.1%	3.9%
		(n)	380	1,235	1,615
	Black (non-Hispanic or Latino)	%	7.5%	30.2%	21.4%
		(n)	1,465	9,315	10,780
	Hispanic or Latino	%	6.6%	18.2%	13.0%
		(n)	1,677	5,788	7,465
Total		%	6.1%	16.8%	12.8%
		(n)	3,821	17,382	21,203

Data Source: 2017 American Community Survey, public use files. Tabulations by Great Cities Institute

Percent and Number of Out of School and Out of Work 16 to 19 and 20 to 24 Year Olds by Race/Ethnicity in Alexander, Edwards, Gallatin, Hamilton, Hardin, Johnson, Massac, Pope, Pulaski, Saline, Union, Wabash, White, Jackson, Williamson, Franklin, and Perry Counties, 2013-2017				
Race/Ethnicity		16-19	20-24	16-24
White (non-Hispanic or Latino)	%	7.7%	22.5%	16.6%
	(n)	1,002	4,401	5,403
Black (non-Hispanic or Latino)	%	11.2%	46.6%	34.9%
	(n)	191	1,620	1,811
Hispanic or Latino	%	12.5%	24.1%	18.0%
	(n)	132	233	365
Total	%	8.4%	26.0%	19.0%
	(n)	1,382	6,440	7,822

Data Source: 2013-2017 American Community Survey, public use files. Tabulations by Great Cities Institute

Percent and Number of Out of School and Out of Work 16 to 19 and 20 to 24 Year Olds by Race/Ethnicity in Adams, Pike, Brown, Schuyler, Mason, Cass, Morgan, Scott, Greene, Macoupin, Jersey, Calhoun, Henry, Mercer, Henderson, Warren, Hancock, McDonough and Fulton Counties, 2013-2017				
Race/Ethnicity		16-19	20-24	16-24
White (non-Hispanic or Latino)	%	8.4%	14.6%	11.8%
	(n)	1,725	3,601	5,326
Black (non-Hispanic or Latino)	%	9.2%	36.7%	27.0%
	(n)	107	780	887
Hispanic or Latino	%	8.6%	26.0%	17.7%
	(n)	95	316	411
Total	%	8.5%	16.6%	12.9%
	(n)	1,989	4,720	6,709

Data Source: 2013-2017 American Community Survey, public use files. Tabulations by Great Cities Institute

Percent and Number of Out of School and Out of Work 16 to 19 and 20 to 24 Year Olds by Race/Ethnicity in Kankakee, Livingston, Ford, Iroquois, and Vermilion Counties, 2013-2017				
Race/Ethnicity		16-19	20-24	16-24
White (non-Hispanic or Latino)	%	8.1%	20.0%	14.6%
	(n)	836	2,552	3,388
Black (non-Hispanic or Latino)	%	12.7%	42.5%	29.3%
	(n)	247	1,030	1,277
Hispanic or Latino	%	10.5%	24.8%	18.3%
	(n)	143	400	543
Total	%	8.9%	24.2%	17.2%
	(n)	1,263	4,165	5,428

Data Source: 2013-2017 American Community Survey, public use files. Tabulations by Great Cities Institute

Percent and Number of Out of School and Out of Work 16 to 19 and 20 to 24 Year Olds by Race/Ethnicity in Monroe, Randolph, Washington, Jefferson, Marion, Montgomery, Bond, Clinton, Fayette, Effingham Clark, Jasper, Crawford, Lawrence, Richland, Clay, and Wayne Counties, 2013-2017				
Race/Ethnicity		16-19	20-24	16-24
White (non-Hispanic or Latino)	%	6.4%	16.7%	12.1%
	(n)	1,055	3,463	4,518
Black (non-Hispanic or Latino)	%	16.9%	63.7%	53.1%
	(n)	92	1,187	1,279
Hispanic or Latino	%	18.9%	36.4%	29.6%
	(n)	100	304	404
Total	%	7.2%	21.3%	15.2%
	(n)	1,305	5,114	6,419

Data Source: 2013-2017 American Community Survey, public use files. Tabulations by Great Cities Institute